



MEDIA RELEASE

GROOMING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ARTS AND HERITAGE PROFESSIONALS WITH THE LAUNCH OF THE CULTURE ACADEMY

Singapore, 6 October 2015 – The Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) strengthens capability development and thought leadership in the arts and heritage sectors with the launch of the Culture Academy hosted by the National Heritage Board (NHB). The Academy aims to groom the current and next generation of arts and heritage professionals and administrators in Singapore. The launch of the Academy on 6 October 2015 is held in conjunction with its inaugural lecture under the *Distinguished Speaker Series*, featuring Dr Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum.

2 The Culture Academy has its origins in the former NHB Academy set up in 2010, which focused primarily on capability development for the museum sector in Singapore. Recognising the need to enhance the skills of not only heritage and museum professionals, but also those in the wider arts and culture arena, the scope of the NHB Academy has been expanded to become the Culture Academy of the Ministry.

3 The arts and heritage landscape has developed rapidly in recent years, and this growth has spurred the need to ensure that our cultural infrastructure can sustain future developments. Beyond physical infrastructure, passionate and capable arts and heritage professionals are needed to fuel the industry's growth, and the Culture Academy is one such timely platform to nurture such talents.

Furthering Capability Development in the Broader Arts and Heritage Sectors

4 Under the new Culture Academy, its reach has been broadened to encompass the training and development of arts and heritage professionals such as arts and culture educators, arts groups, heritage non-governmental organisations, cultural policy makers, docents and members of the Museum Roundtable (MR). The Culture Academy does this through education and capability development, and thought leadership.



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5 In the area of capability development, the Culture Academy will go beyond NHB to work with partner institutions such as the National Arts Council, The Esplanade and the Arts House Pte Ltd to review and identify more areas for training and continuous learning. The Academy will partner local and international institutions to conceptualise specialised undergraduate and post-graduate courses to boost education and capability development, in areas such as cultural administration and policy development.

6 The initiatives to further thought leadership will include the *Distinguished Speaker Series* and *In Conversation Series* which feature luminaries and outstanding leaders from both the arts and heritage industries as well as the business world. These prominent figures will be invited to share their experiences in their respective fields of work, including knowledge of international best practices as well as core skills in the areas of fund raising, developing institutions and organisational excellence, curation, exhibition management, collections management and conservation.

7 The Academy also aims to further research collaborations in Southeast Asian culture, which includes art and history of the region, as well as policy making for the arts and culture, amongst other relevant topics. It will strive to build a deeper understanding of the arts and heritage in Singapore and Southeast Asia through promoting research and knowledge exchange among local institutions and in collaboration with partner institutions regionally and internationally.

8 Other regular programmes include dialogue sessions; talks by curators, arts and heritage professionals and experts; workshops organised in partnership with leading international organisations; and masterclasses and networking sessions for local arts and heritage professionals. In the coming years, the Academy will be inviting experts and specialists from Australia, Hong Kong, the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, France and Asia, for these programmes.

Establishing Singapore as the Cultural Hub of ASEAN

9 Beyond training and developing arts and heritage professionals, the Culture Academy will create opportunities to grow Singapore's cultural networks within the region and internationally, to gain greater recognition within ASEAN for its research and cultural



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exchanges. The establishing of the Academy is in line with the Ministry's strategic objective of raising capability development in the areas of arts and heritage.

10 Ms Yeoh Chee Yan, Permanent Secretary for MCCY, says, "The Culture Academy will be tasked to groom leaders and develop strong administrators and museum professionals across both the arts and heritage sectors. We hope that the Academy will help make Singapore a place where cultural leaders meet, exchange ideas and in so doing grow a deeper understanding of our own culture and that of Southeast Asia."

11 Mrs Rosa Daniel, Deputy Secretary (Culture) for MCCY and Chief Executive Officer of NHB, says, "The work of the NHB Academy over the last 5 years has provided a solid foundation for the launch of the Culture Academy to serve the needs of the wider cultural sector. The goal of the Academy is to stretch the imagination and consider new paths for cultural institutions in Singapore. We hope to be inspired by leading professionals, whether international or local. There is a lot we can learn from each other, and indeed part of our mission is to strengthen collaborations across disciplines, so we might connect heritage, art, and performance."

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About the Culture Academy

The Culture Academy has its origins in the former National Heritage Board (NHB) Academy which was established in June 2010. With the changing needs for capability development and thought leadership within the wider arts and culture sectors, the NHB Academy was expanded and renamed the Culture Academy in June 2015.

The Academy's mission is to deepen thinking and creativity in cultural institutions and to build professional capabilities in the administration of culture and heritage in Singapore. Its vision is to be the centre of excellence for the development of arts and heritage professionals and administrators locally and regionally.

The Culture Academy is a division under the purview of NHB, a statutory board under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (Singapore).

About the National Heritage Board



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The National Heritage Board (NHB) was formed on 1 August 1993. As the custodian of Singapore's heritage, NHB is responsible for telling the Singapore story, sharing the Singaporean experience and imparting our Singapore spirit.

NHB's mission is to preserve and celebrate the shared heritage of our diverse communities, for the purpose of education, nation-building and cultural understanding. It manages the national museums and heritage institutions, and sets policies relating to heritage sites, monuments and the national collection. Through the national collection, NHB curates heritage programmes and presents exhibitions to connect the past, present and future generations of Singaporeans. NHB is a statutory board under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. Please visit www.nhb.gov.sg for more information.

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